

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9670

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, AORG
SUBJECT: FIRST CLASS TRAVEL IN NATO

REF: (A) STATE 049452, (B) USNATO 1952

1. THE TEXT OF THE LETTER FORWARDED TO SYG LUNS ON FEBRUARY 27, 1978, IS QUOTED AT THE END OF THIS MESSAGE.
2. ALTHOUGH VAN CAMPEN ANTICIPATED A WRITTEN REPLY UPON SYG LUNS' RETURN WITHIN A WEEK, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING INTERIM VERBAL COMMENTS TODAY:

(A) HE CHALLENGED MISSION'S BASIC ASSUMPTION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A STUDY. ALTHOUGH THE BUDGET REPORT HAD BEEN APPROVED BY COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL HAD SPECIFICALLY APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATION OF C-M(75)78 AND THE PORTION DEALING WITH FIRST-CLASS AIR TRAVEL (PARA 5 REFTTEL) WAS NOT A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION. THEREFORE, SUCH A REQUEST HAD NOT BEEN EXPLICITLY PUT FORWARD BY THE COUNCIL.

(B) HE HAD SPOKEN WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FOUND IT IS NOT POSSIBLE
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TO COORDINATE POLICIES ON FIRST-CLASS AIR TRAVEL. NATO HAS BEEN UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH OECD AND EC.

(C) NATO IS BUDGET IS VERY TIGHT FOR THE VARIOUS GROUPS HERE. IN ORDER TO KEEP THESE TIGHT BUDGETS UNDER CONTROL, MOST OF THE A6/7 EMPLOYEES USE ECONOMY OR SECOND-CLASS TRAVEL.

(D) THE IS IS UNHAPPY NOW, AND WOULD SEE THIS AS AN
ATTACK ON THEIR BASIC EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AT THE A6/A7
LEVEL, I. E. "LES DROITS ACQUIS."

(E) FYI:

(1) NATO CONTROLLER HAS ADVISED MISSION THAT NATO IN
CY 1977 SPENT BF 1,050,000 ON FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL FOR
A6/A7 NATO EMPLOYEES BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE EUROPE.
BF 300,000 OF THAT FIGURE HAS BEEN FOR FIRST-CLASS
TRAVEL BY THE BOARD OF AUDITORS WHO ARE CLASSIFIED AS
A/7. HAD TRAVEL BEEN BY ECONOMY CLASS, BF 350,000
WOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED.

(2) IS DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, IN OFF-THE-RECORD
COMMENT TODAY, NOTED THE DIFFICULTY HE WOULD HAVE
WITHIN NATO OF COORDINATING PROPOSED LANGUAGE WITH THE
SUBORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE STAFF
ASSOCIATION, NOT TO MENTION OECD AND OTHER CCG
ORGANIZATIONS. THUS, HE SUGGESTS THAT AMBASSADOR
BENNETT RAISE IN COUNCIL THE PRECISE WORDING OF THE
US SUGGESTION AND, IF COUNCIL APPROVAL IS OBTAINED, THE
TORTUOUS ADMINISTRATION COORDINATION PROCEDURES WOULD
BE THEREBY BYPASSED. END FYI.

(F) IN VIEW OF FYI 2, ABOVE, WE BELIEVE AMBASSADOR
BENNETT'S GUIDANCE FOR HIS INTERVENTION ON THIS SUBJECT
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IN THE NEXT NAC SCHEDULED SHOULD CONTAIN:

(1) THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE RECENT UN
DECISION:

BEGIN QUOTE:

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING THE PROVISIONS OF ITS RESOLUTION 1978 (XVII)
OF 11 DECEMBER 1965 AND 2245 (XXI) OF 20 DECEMBER 1966
REGARDING THE SYSTEM OF TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES
TO MEMBERS OF ORGANS AND SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS,

RECALLING FURTHER ITS RESOLUTION 3198 (XXVIII) OF
18 DECEMBER 1973 ON THE STANDARDS OF ACCOMMODATION FOR
OFFICIAL TRAVEL OF UNITED NATIONS STAFF,

AWARE OF THE DESIRABILITY FOR ECONOMY IN THE CONDUCT OF
OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS,

CONSCIOUS OF THE CONSIDERABLE COST DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN
FIRST CLASS, ECONOMY CLASS AND OTHER AIR FARES,
DESIRING TO ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS BY REDUCING THE
AMOUNT EXPENDED ON TRAVEL BY THE UNITED NATIONS AS FAR
AS POSSIBLE,

1. NOTES THE REPORT ON FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL IN THE
UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE JOINT
INSPECTION UNIT AND THE NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
AS WELL AS THE REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE;

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2. DECIDES THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF SEEKING THE MOST
ECONOMICAL AIR FARE STRUCTURES SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED AS
FOLLOWS:

(A) THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF
EACH MEMBER STATE ATTENDING REGULAR, SPECIAL AND
EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SHALL BE ENTITLED TO FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL;

(B) OTHER PERSONS PREVIOUSLY ENTITLED TO FIRST-CLASS
TRAVEL UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 2245 (XXI)
AND 3198 (XXVIII) AND THOSE CHAIRMEN OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEES AT PRESENT ENTITLED TO TRAVEL PAID BY THE
UNITED NATIONS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL
ONLY WHEN THE DURATION OF A PARTICULAR FLIGHT EXCEEDS
NINE HOURS (BY THE MOST DIRECT AND ECONOMICAL ROUTE),
INCLUDING SCHEDULED STOPS FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS CHANGE
OF PLANES OR REFUELLING, BUT EXCLUDING TRAVEL TIME TO
AND FROM AIRPORTS;

(C) PAYMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES
IN ALL OTHER CASES SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE LEAST
COSTLY AIR-FARE STRUCTURE REGULARLY AVAILABLE, OR ITS
EQUIVALENT, BY RECOGNIZED PUBLIC CARRIER VIA THE
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SHORTEST AND MOST DIRECT ROUTE; END QUOTE.

2. OECD, IN AMENDING ITS FIRST CLASS TRAVEL REGULATIONS
ON 1 JANUARY 1977, DOES NOT AUTHORIZE FIRST CLASS TRAVEL
FOR ITS A6/A7 EMPLOYEES WITHIN EUROPE NOR TO
WASHINGTON D.C. NOR NEW YORK.

3. MY AUTHORITIES PROPOSE IN LINE WITH CIVIL BUDGET
COMMITTEE UNDERSTANDING CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 11B,
CM(75)78, APPROVED IN COUNCIL 17 DECEMBER 1975, THAT THE
NATO TRAVEL REGULATIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE 40.22 OF THE
NATO STAFF REGULATIONS BE AMENDED TO READ:

"A. UNCLASSIFIED MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AT THE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY GENERAL LEVEL AND ABOVE WILL BE ENTITLED TO
FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL."

4. IN THE EVENT THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP COUNCIL
CONSENSUS TO PERMIT ACCEPTANCE OF ABOVE, AMBASSADOR WILL
BE AUTHORIZED TO EXPAND 40.22 BY ADDING:

QUOTE AUTHOIZES THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO EXERCISE HIS
DISCRETION IN MAKING EXCEPTIONS IN THE MOST EXIGENT
CIRCUMSTANCES TO ALLOW FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL ON A CASE-BY-
CASE BASIS AND REQUESTS THE SYG TO REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE
CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PRESENT RESOLUTION, NOTING ALL EXCEPTIONS MADE UNDER THIS
DISCRETIONARY POWER, THE REASONS THEREFOR, AND THE
SAVINGS ACHIEVED THROUGH UTILIZATION OF ECONOMY AND OTHER
AIR FARES. UNQUOTE.

3. REQUEST CONCURRENCE AND ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE AS
REQUIRED TO ENABLE MISSION INTERVENTION AT THE NEXT
COUNCIL MEETING WITHOUT AWAITING THE FORMAL SYG REPLY.
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4.TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL

MY AUTHORITIES HAVE REQUESTED THAT I FORMALLY INTERVENE AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO ENQUIRE WHY THE NATO INTERNATIONAL STAFF ADMINISTRATION HAS APPARENTLY NOT TAKEN ANY ACTION, TO DATE, REGARDING AMENDMENT OF TRAVEL REGULATIONS WITH THE AIM OF RESTRICTING ENTITLEMENT TO FIRST CLASS AIR TRAVEL TO STAFF MEMBERS OF THE RANK OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AND ABOVE. THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE REQUESTED THIS ACTION IN C-M(75)78, 11 DECEMBER 1975, AND THE COUNCIL CONCURRED IN THE CBC REPORT ON 17 DECEMBER 1975.

THE SUBJECT OF FIRST CLASS AIR TRAVEL ENTITLEMENT HAS BECOME A MAJOR TOPIC OF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL 1979 BUDGET AUTHORIZATION IN THE LAST FORTNIGHT, AT WHICH TIME, THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WAS ADVISED THAT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD APPROVED A RESOLUTION RESTRICTING FIRST CLASS TRAVEL TO SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ALONE, EXCEPT FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF INTER GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEES WHEN A PARTICULAR FLIGHT EXCEEDS NINE HOURS BY THE MOST DIRECT AND ECONOMIC ROUTE.

YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF CHANGES TO U.S. GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS WHICH EXCLUDE U.S. EQUIVALENTS TO NATO A-7 AND A-6 GRADES FROM FIRST CLASS AIR TRAVEL ENTITLEMENT, BUT THIS FACTOR COUPLED WITH THE UN RESOLUTION WILL CAUSE OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS' AIR TRAVEL POLICIES TO BE SCRUTINIZED MOST CAREFULLY.

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MY AUTHORITIES ARE FURTHER INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF FAILED TO IMPLEMENT THE COUNCIL

DECISION AND WHETHER A PROCEDURE CANNOT BE DEVELOPED TO INSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL DECISIONS.

MY AUTHORITIES EMPHASIZE THEIR CONCERN OVER ANY FURTHER DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED REVISED TRAVEL REGULATIONS IN VIEW OF THE IMMINENT U.S. CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON NATO TRAVEL AND THE FACT THAT A COUNCIL DECISION HAS BEEN APPARENTLY IGNORED FOR OVER TWO YEARS.

I AM SURE THAT IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE FACTS YOU WOULD WISH TO HAVE THIS APPARENT ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT CORRECTED. MY AUTHORITIES ASSURE ME THEY WISH TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER RESTRICTIVE PROPOSALS SIMILAR TO THOSE APPROVED IN THE UNITED NATIONS. END TEXT.

3. CORRECTION: SECOND SENTENCE IN PARA 2(A) SHOULD READ: ALTHOUGH THE BUDGET REPORT HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL HAD SPECIFICALLY APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATION OF C-M(75)78, THE PORTION DEALING WITH FIRST-CLASS AIR TRAVEL (PARA 5 REFTEL) WAS NOT A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION. GLITMAN

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